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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

The Problem of Proof. Especially as Exemplified in Disputed Document Trials.—A Discussion of Various Phases of the Proof of the Facts in a Court of Law, with Some General Comments on the Conduct of Trials—By Albert S. Osborn, Author of "Questioned Documents." Introduction by Professor John Henry Wigmore, Author of "Wigmore on Evidence." New York and Albany, Matthew Bender & Company, Incorporated. 1922.

"Taking one consideration for another" the task of the reviewer of law books is not a happy one. He is compelled, if conscientious, to wade through an enormous quantity of material and often hesitates to express a condemnatory sentence for fear that his judgment may be wrong. Now and then a volume appears whose perusal compensates for all the time lost in the discharge of his duty. Such a volume is the one now under consideration. By the learned author of "Questioned Documents"—a book of the greatest value and interest, it has been read with actual delight, and the reviewer feels that no member of the profession can afford to be without it. It does not confine itself to the mere discussion of technical questions, but is a book, as Professor Wigmore well says in the introduction, whose "ripe wisdom ranges over a wide scope of the practitioner's field." It not only discusses the subject of proof of the facts and persuasion in the courts of law, but enters into short treatises upon "Argument" and "Cross-examination," upon the "Atmosphere of a Trial" and "Court Rooms." The statements as to the latter ought to be read by every architect who plans a court house, just as the others ought to be read by every lawyer, no matter what is his age or experience. The chapter on "Advocacy" is admirable and worthy of engraftment in every work on legal ethics. The book possesses not only the peculiar advantage of being written by a learned expert on the main subject treated but a still greater one as the work of a most intelligent layman who has, as such, had much experience in taking part both as an expert and a looker-on in the trial of cases. His viewpoint is therefore invaluable to the practitioner. Equally worthy of careful consideration are his observations on the variations in practice of law in the various states. He has had unusual opportunities to observe them and his views upon the necessity in the interests of justice to have uniformity of practice are in terse form as valuable as any we have ever read or heard. We can say in all sincerity that to have this book as a part of the curriculum of every law school would be of incalculable value and no lawyer who studies his profession should fail to read it.

Documents and Their Scientific Examination with Special Reference to the Chemistry Involved in Cases of Suspected Forgery, Investigation of Disputed Documents, Handwriting, Etc.—By C. Ainsworth Mitchell, M. A. (Oxon), F. I. C. Editor of "The Analyst" Cantor Lecturer on Ink with 59 Illustrations. London, Charles Griffin & Company, Limited, Exeter Street, Strand, W. C. 2. 1922. For Sale by J. B. Lippincott & Company, Washington Square, Philadelphia.

This is a very interesting discussion, mainly upon the chemical ex-